

VZCZCXRO0832
OO RUEH DU RUEH MR RUEH RN
DE RUEH SB #0259 0930616
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2662
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEH AR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1863
RUEH DS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1986
RUEH RL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0559
RUEH BY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1263
RUEH DK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1620
RUEH KM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2042
RUEH NR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4473
RUEA IIA/CIA WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1113
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000259

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR S. HILL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/01/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT: TSVANGIRAI'S STATEMENT ON
ELECTION

REF: HARARE 256 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

[11](#). (U) MDC president Morgan Tsvangirai, making his first public appearance since the March 29 election, addressed diplomats and reporters the evening of April 1. In a statement, Tsvangirai thanked the Zimbabwean people for their efforts in going to the polls, spoke about the hardships they had endured, and said Zimbabwe was on a precipice. He then responded to a number of questions. He said the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) had had sufficient time to announce results, but also said the MDC was willing to wait as long as necessary for the ZEC to certify and announce results. He declined to confirm or deny whether the MDC had entered into talks with president Robert Mugabe; he said the MDC would not negotiate until the ZEC announced results. Tsvangirai declined to say he had won but said he had exceeded the constitutional requirement to be elected president. He then said he had received a sufficient number of votes to avoid a runoff. (Comment. Tsvangirai avoided stating he had won, continuously saying he awaited ZEC certification of returns, to avoid possible legal complications. End Comment.)

[12](#). (C) MDC secretary general Tendai Biti told us afterward, that the ZEC had delayed counting in the presidential race because it claimed it had not received election forms, signed by electoral officials at all polling stations, containing official results. He was mystified as to why the ZEC did not yet have these forms. Biti also said that a number of MDC polling agents in Mashonaland Central were refused admission to polling stations. MDC agents had therefore not witnessed the counting in these stations; Mashonaland Central therefore could be a fertile area of voter fraud.

[13](#). (SBU) Biti said the MDC would announce its polling results on April 2 at 10 am.

[14](#). (U) The situation remains calm in the city. There are

no expectations of violence during the night.

MC GEE